

REMARKS

Entry of this response and reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 5103(a) as allegedly obvious over Enomoto in view of Honma. Applicants respectfully traverse.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner acknowledges that the copier disclosed by Honma provides a resolution converter for automatically lowering a resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution when the image quality of prints is not lowered in relationship to the digital printer.

Honma discloses a resolution converter for converting a resolution of the image data corresponding to a residue capacity of the recording medium detected by the residue detecting element (corresponding to the capacity checker of the present invention). However, Honma's apparatus does not take into account that the image quality of prints should not be lowered in relationship to the resolution of the printer when converting the image data. Honma simply states that image data with a resolution of less than 150 dpi generally has little meaning as image data (column 10, lines 1 through 14) and does not refer to deterioration of an image in relationship to the resolution of the resolution of the printer. More particularly, if the resolution of the image data is lowered to 150 dpi while the resolution of the print head of the printer is around 300 dpi, for example, the image quality of prints would be lowered in relationship to the resolution of the printer.

In contrast, the resolution converter provided in the digital photo processing apparatus according to the present invention is intended to lower the resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution which does not allow the image quality of prints to be lowered in relationship to the resolution of the printer. More particularly, even if the resolution of the image data is lowered to approximately 300 dpi when the resolution of the print head of the printer is around 300 dpi and the resolution of the image data is about 500 dpi, the image quality of prints is not lowered in relationship to the resolution of the printer. The resolution converter of the present invention is provided for converting the resolution of the image data in such a case. (See page 4, lines 3 to 21 of the original specification).

Thus, Honma does not disclose "a resolution converter operable to lower a resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution which does not allow image quality of prints to be lowered in relationship to a resolution of the digital printer when the printing data has a volume exceeding the available capacity detected by the capacity checker".

Similarly, with respect to claim 13, Honma discloses a resolution converter for converting a resolution of the image data corresponding to a residue capacity of the recording medium detected by the residue detecting element (corresponding to the capacity checker of the present invention), but does not take into account that the image quality of prints should not be lowered in relationship to the resolution of the printer when converting the image data (column 10, lines 1 through 14). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Honma does not disclose a step for determining if it is possible to convert a resolution of the printing data to a proper resolution which does not substantially lower image quality of prints in relationship to a resolution of the digital printer when the printing data has a volume exceeding the available capacity.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 9 and 13 should be withdrawn. It is also respectfully submitted that all other rejections of the claims should be withdrawn, as the additionally cited references do not overcome the aforementioned deficiencies.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-KIT 327-US.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

James R. Crawford

Registration No.: 39,155

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

666 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10103

(212) 318-3000

(212) 318-3400 (Fax)

Attorneys for Applicant